REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-15 are currently pending in the application, with Claims 1, 13, and 14 being independent.

Claims 1, 8, 13, and 14 have been amended herein. The specification has been amended to improve its form, and a grammatical mistake has been corrected in Fig. 3. No new matter has been added.

The summary of the invention has been objected to as simply restating the claims. Applicants have amended the summary and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection.

Claim 8 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. This claim has been amended in response. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested.

Claims 1-7 and 9-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,269,336 ("Ladd"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1 of the invention, as amended, recites a document processing apparatus including document obtaining means for obtaining a document written in a predetermined markup language from a designated source; rule selecting means for selecting a rule from among a plurality of rules each specifying respective voice output contents and voice input candidates; document analyzing means for analyzing the document obtained by said document obtaining means based on the rule selected by said rule selecting means to fetch voice output contents, voice input candidates, and designation information for designating a next

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processing object corresponding to each voice input candidate; voice outputting means for voice-outputting the voice output contents fetched by said document analyzing means; voice recognizing means for voice-recognizing the voice input by the user; and controlling means for checking the result of recognition by said voice recognizing means against the input candidates fetched by said document analyzing means to control obtainment of a new document by said document obtaining means or next analysis by said document analyzing means based on designation information corresponding to the input candidate matching the recognition result.

Independent Claims 13 and 14, as amended, respectively recite corresponding method and computer program claims.

According to the invention, a rule can be selected from among a plurality of rules each specifying respective voice output contents and voice input candidates, an obtained document can be analyzed based on the selected rule, and output contents, voice input candidates, and designation information can be fetched.

Ladd discloses that a parser unit parses information received via a network based on syntax rules of a markup language and that an interpreter unit determines a next state or step based on a dialogue architecture and user input (col. 12, lines 18-20 and col. 13, lines 55-59).

Applicants submit that Ladd fails to teach or suggest at least selecting a rule from among a plurality of rules each specifying respective voice output contents and voice input candidates, and analyzing an obtained document based on the rule selected, as recited in the independent claims.
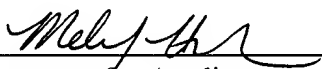
Accordingly, Applicants submit that the independent claims patentably distinguish the invention over the cited art. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102 rejection are respectfully requested.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be allowable, for the same reasons that the base claims from which they depend are allowable, and further due to the additional features that they recite. Individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the application at the Examiner's earliest convenience are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in Washington, D.C. by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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